

DRAFT LETTER TO KHRUSHCHEV

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have carefully read your letter of October 26 and I find in it some encouragement.

You must be fully aware of the position of the United States concerning recent events, and I do not believe that further explanation or justification is required.

You have said that we must be frank with each other and with this I fully agree. You must understand that if there exists a threat to world peace today, it is due to the reckless and secret introduction of ballistic missiles into Cuba. No amount of rationalization about defensive versus offensive missiles can obscure this stark fact. By now you can have no doubt that the counter measures the United States has taken with the support of the Organization of American States and others outside this hemisphere have the sole purpose of terminating the offensive threat introduced into this hemisphere.

I am gratified that the arms shipments to Cuba have been suspended. So long as this decision stands and incidents at sea can be avoided there is a chance that peace can be maintained.

We have both agreed to the Acting Secretary General's

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proposal. I am disturbed, however, at the apparent inconsistency between the Acting Secretary General's proposal that "Soviet ships already on their way to Cuba . . . stay away from the interception area" and the indication in your letter to me that certain of your ships will still continue to Cuba. I feel that prompt clarification of your position is in our mutual interest.

While I welcome these indications that you intend to suspend further dangerous military shipments to Cuba, I regret that your letter does not suggest that you will promptly dismantle the missiles already in Cuba. In fact, I must note that work on these missile sites continues at a rapid pace.

You suggest in your letter that under certain circumstances your "specialists" in Cuba might disappear. I presume you mean by this that the weapons manned and serviced by these "specialists" would be returned to the Soviet Union, too. I would welcome your clarification of this.

What is urgently important is that the offensive weapons now in Cuba, which upset the world military balance and threaten world peace, should be immediately removed. There can be no doubt that any normalization of the situation in the Caribbean and, indeed, any

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improvement in general world relations can occur only if these weapons are immediately dismantled.

Consultation with the Acting Secretary General of the United Nations is already taking place. I believe that this consultation should proceed rapidly to insure that the threat of offensive weapons now in Cuba is ended and that normal conditions can be restored in this hemisphere and in the world.